

- PREMINGER PREPARING FILM TO REHABILITATE RED SPIES: Producer-director Otto Preminger is preparing the script for a new film, "Open Question," which will present the Left's version of the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, convicted and executed for their part in a war-time Soviet espionage ring. Among the secrets the Rosenbergs betrayed: the atomic bomb. Preminger's publicity office has announced the new film, to be in production early in 1970, will be based upon the trial record but adds that Preminger "has acquired the rights to several books written about the case." Most books about the case are Left books, portraying the Rosenbergs as martyrs persecuted because they were Communists, framed by their own relatives and several hundred deceitful FBI agents conniving with federal prosecutors. If Preminger follows the story outlines of his recently-acquired properties, he will have to skirt several issues: 1. Why did David Greenglass and Harry Gold, self-confessed co-conspirators with the Rosenbergs, cooperate in "framing" the spy couple? (Greenglass and Gold both received long prison terms, despite cooperation with the FBI.) 2. What happened to other members of the spy ring? (Except for Morton Sobell, who was captured in flight in Mexico, the other named members have fled behind the Iron Curtain, where they remain to this day.)

"Open Question" will not be Preminger's first flirtation with the Farleft. Several years ago he gave the public a film with a message (miscegenation and redneckery in Dixie), "Hurry Sundown," based on a book by K. B. Gilden. The movie was a box office disaster. K. B. Gilden is the pen name of Katya and Bert Gilden of Bridgeport, Conn., both of whom have been named as CP members in Congressional testimony. Anti-Communists will also remember Preminger for his distortion of Allen Drury's classic Advise and Consent. Where Drury had delineated a slippery Secretary of State-designate who wilfully concealed a Communist background, Preminger managed to switch the villain -- to the Congressional committee which wanted to expose all that old stale stuff to harry a couple of repentant and cooperative ex-Communists. [Those interested in a propaganda-free analysis of the Rosenberg affair are referred to The Rosenberg Case; Fact and Fiction, by S. Andhil Pipeberg, Oceana, 1953.]

P-Gilden, K.B.